

Environmental Health and Safety

Used Oil Management Procedures

Purpose

Oil includes any petroleum-based or synthetic oil. Oil *used* as lubricants, compressor oils, transmission fluids, refrigeration oil, hydraulic fluids, cutting fluids and heat transfer fluids are considered used oil and not managed as hazardous waste, unless contaminated with PCBs or high levels of halogens. The federal regulations pertaining to used oil are set forth in [eCFR :: 40 CFR Part 273 -- Standards for Universal Waste Management](#).

“Used Oil” does not include animal or vegetable oils, kerosene, mineral spirits, solvents or degreasers used to clean oily parts, brake fluid, or antifreeze. These materials are typically managed as hazardous waste, depending on their properties and the presence of contaminants.

The types of used oil waste may include:

- Accumulation containers of liquid used oil,
- Used oil filters,
- Shop rags and absorbents.

1. Accumulation Containers of Used Oil - Collect used oil in 30-gallon drums or smaller containers, stored in a location protected from the weather. EHS will provide 30-gallon drums to generators of larger quantities. Keep containers on covered, impermeable surfaces away from drains. Use secondary containment such as spill pallets or trays. All containers must be labeled "USED OIL." Do not mix any other materials with the used oil.

USED OIL	
GENERATOR INFORMATION	
COMPANY	_____
ADDRESS	_____
CITY, STATE, ZIP	_____
SOURCE	_____
CONTACT	_____

You may consolidate different types of used oil (for example, engine oil and transmission fluid) into the same container. However, collect used refrigeration oil, used pump oil, and used metal-working oils/fluids in separate containers. Containers must be in good condition and not leaking.

Used oil filter collection container with multiple used oil filters stored upright in a black circular rack. The filters vary in size and color, including white, yellow, and green, and are arranged around the top of the container.

2. Used Oil Filters - Non-terne-plated oil filters that have been gravity hot-drained are excluded from the RCRA hazardous waste regulations and used oil regulations. “Hot-drained” means that the oil filter is drained near engine operating temperature. To qualify for this exclusion, puncture the filter dome or the filter anti-drain back valve and allow the filter to drain for at least 12 hours into a used oil collection container until used oil no longer drips from the filter. The drained filter can be disposed as normal waste without performing hazardous waste determination or recycled as scrap metal.



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Terne-plated used oil filters do not qualify for the exclusion because the terne plating contains a tin/lead alloy. Terne may be used on filters found in heavy trucks or equipment. Collect these as a hazardous waste.

3. **Shop rags and Absorbents** – Wring out and thoroughly drain materials that are contaminated with used oil, such as oily rags and spill debris. Collect the drained oil in a used oil container. After separating the used oil from shop rags, collect the rags in a fire-safe can for disposal through Environmental Health & Safety (EHS). Collect spill debris in a heavy-wall container such as a 5-gallon plastic bucket and dispose through EHS.



Disposal of Used Oil and Contaminated Materials

EHS makes every attempt to recycle used oil in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. Remember: do not mix any other chemical waste with used oil. Avoid overfilling used oil containers (e.g. leave a 2-inch headspace in a 30-gallon drum). Clean the surfaces of containers before requesting collection. Submit a collection request using the online Chemical Waste Collection Request system. On the submittal under Chemical Name/Constituents, describe the material as “Used oil” or “Used Oil Spill Absorbent,” as appropriate. When prompted by the online system, print a label and attach it to the container.

Spill Preparedness and Response

DO NOT dispose of used motor oil by draining or pouring oil into the sanitary sewer or storm drain systems, a sump, or onto the ground/road. **DO NOT** collect used oil in an underground or aboveground storage tank without prior EHS approval. Dispose of used oil through EHS only.

Have spill cleanup supplies readily available. Spill pads, kitty litter, and Floor-Dry™ work well. Clean up spills immediately. Call EHS for assistance at (208) 885-6524.